



NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

August 23, 2005

SAFETY ALERT

HAZARD TREE MITIGATIONS

All operations, whether on the line or in spike camp situations, should constantly consider the snag situation. Snags and green hazard trees have been identified as extremely hazardous on most incidents. All actions should consider snags as a serious threat, at all times. Recent close calls warrant a reminder of the following considerations:

- ❖ Use saw teams and falling bosses.
- ❖ Post lookouts concentrating on snags.
- ❖ Snag well ahead of line construction.
- ❖ Snag identified safety zones. The black is probably your best safety zone. Identify areas within the black, that are snag free or that you make snag free.
- ❖ All sawyers assure themselves a quick and safe escape route from the tree they are falling.
- ❖ Do not turn your back on a falling tree.
- ❖ Snag fire access routes as necessary – roads, trails and drop points.
- ❖ Keep crews spread out – Do not bunch up.
- ❖ Two sets of eyes are better than one.
- ❖ Heads up for erratic winds from storm cells.
- ❖ Stay clear of all air operations including cargo drops, water drops, retardant drops, low level flights, arrivals and departures at helispots.
- ❖ Consider the domino effect when determining safe distances from hazard snags.
- ❖ If a crew does not have a qualified saw with them to mitigate hazard snags, the crew should stay entirely clear of the hazard.
- ❖ Consider green trees as hazards also – be aware of rotten or decayed trees, leaners, or branches ready to fall.
- ❖ Watch for burned out root systems on snags and green trees as well, especially several days into the incident – a sound snag or tree today may not be sound tomorrow.

LOOK UP – LOOK DOWN – LOOK ALL-AROUND